

SECTION 9**SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN**

This Seven-Year Action Plan is based on the Goals and Objectives set forth in the preceding section. The accomplishment of this Plan will depend upon active support from a variety of parties, including many outside of Brookline government. Nevertheless, because this is a Town plan, the Seven-Year Action Plan identifies only Town boards, commissions, committees or departments to which responsibility is assigned for initiating or monitoring progress on individual action items. The Plan also identifies target dates for the accomplishment of action items. Some action items will require continuing attention and will be ongoing until the next Open Space and Recreation Plan. An Open Space and Recreation Plan Monitoring Committee, led by the Conservation Commission and Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, will annually track progress on the Action Plan.

I. RESOURCE PROTECTION GOALS**A. Unprotected Open Space****GOAL 1: INCREASE PROTECTION OF PRIORITY UNPROTECTED OPEN SPACES AS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2018 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN.**

Objective 1. Communicate with property owners of priority unprotected open spaces to discuss potential protection of these open spaces.

Actions:

1. Set up meetings with each property owner of the priority unprotected open spaces to discuss possible protection strategies.

Conservation Commission (2019)

Objective 2. As appropriate, broaden community awareness of the status of priority unprotected open space.

Actions:

1. Work with the Select Board to develop a cooperative committee structure to identify appropriate protection measures for open space and new candidates for protection.

Select Board, Conservation Commission, EDAB, Planning Board, DPW, School Department (2019)

2. Establish standards for prioritizing parcels for acquisition of open space.

Select Board, Conservation Commission, EDAB, Planning Board, DPW, School Department (2020)

Objective 3. As appropriate, include protection of these and other unprotected open spaces in larger community planning processes.

Actions:

1. Work with the Select Board and appropriate committees to draft procedures for the processes when considering the acquisition of open spaces.

Select Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, Assessors Department (2022)

2. Develop and prepare the guidelines for presentation to the community through a series of community and neighborhood meetings.

Conservation Commission (2023)

3. Present a final set of guidelines to the Select Board for their review and approval.

Conservation Commission (2024)

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Objective 4. Identify additional measures, approaches or incentives to protect priority unprotected open spaces.

Actions:

1. Establish outreach protocol.

Conservation Commission (2020)

2. Reach out to private owners utilizing outreach protocol.

Conservation Commission (2021)

3. Identify potential mechanisms to prevent loss of unprotected open space such as a land bank.

Conservation Commission (2022)

GOAL II: IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE ADDITIONAL PARCELS WITH SIGNIFICANT OPEN SPACE VALUE.

Objective 1. Work with the Committee set forth in Goal I Objective 2, Action 1 to identify parcels with significant open space value.

Actions:

1. Identify parcels using a comprehensive approach to maximize open space values.

Select Board, Conservation Commission, EDAB, Planning Board, DPW, School Department (2022)

Objective 2. Formalize procedures to determine whether parcels available for acquisition are significant to the interests of open space, including designating who will decide and how the decision will be made.

Actions:

1. Establish a Committee to create a specific review process, including a decision tree.

Conservation Commission, Select Board, Park and Recreation Commission (2022)

Objective 3. Establish and follow specific protocols for reaching out to private owners of significant parcels.

Actions:

1. Work with Committee, as set forth in Goal I Objective 2 (Action 1), to establish an outreach protocol for private property owners.

Conservation Commission, Select Board, Park and Recreation Commission (2022)

GOAL III: PROTECT OPEN SPACE BY ADHERING TO BROOKLINE'S "NO NET LOSS" PRINCIPLE.

Objective 1. Continue tracking the status of publicly owned parcels in the Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest (Section 5) in light of legal or policy developments affecting the status of their protection.

Actions:

1. Develop a working group that includes the appropriate representation from various Town departments to identify those parcels under their respective controls that are not currently under Article 97 protection.

Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission, Assessors Department, Parks and Open Space Division, Select Board (2021)

2. Identify the most appropriate method of protection for each of the parcels.

Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission, Assessors Department, Parks and Open Space Division, Select Board (2023)

Objective 2. Increase protection of publicly owned open space that is not currently protected from development by placing under Article 97 protection, or other appropriate protection.Actions:

1. Place the appropriate level of protection on the parcels that have been identified.

Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission, Assessors Department, Parks and Open Space Division, Select Board (2024)

2. Ensure that all Town parks and open spaces are recorded at the Registry of Deeds as protected under Article 97 or other appropriate protection.

Parks and Open Space Division (2020)

3. Consider protection for small open spaces and corridors such as greenways or green streets.

Parks and Open Space Division, Conservation Commission (2021)

GOAL IV: USE CONSERVATION RESTRICTION POLICY TO PROTECT LAND WITH CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE VALUES.**Objective 1. Encourage conservation restrictions with public access, including areas of open space and potential for green features within the built environment.**Actions:

1. Adapt current Conservation Restriction Policy to encourage conservation restrictions on non-traditional parcels.

Conservation Commission (2021)

Objective 2. Encourage conservation restrictions for land with significant conservation value even when public access is not an option.Actions:

1. Ensure new development and redevelopment projects include conservation restrictions whenever possible to ensure the publicly-accessible open space is protected.

Conservation Commission, Planning and Community Development Department, Building Department (ongoing)

2. Ensure that conservation restrictions are considered during large scale planning processes.

Conservation Commission, Planning and Community Development Department, Building Department (2020)

GOAL V: USE ZONING TOOLS TO PROTECT OPEN SPACE.**Objective 1. Maintaining open communication channels with the Planning and Community Development Department will ensure better protection of open space and green features in the context of development and Town planning efforts.**Actions:

1. Work with the Planning and Community Development Department to review opportunities for additional protections.

Conservation Commission, Planning and Community Development Department (2021)

Objective 2. Consider use of overlay districts, buffer zones and/or cluster zoning to protect open space.Actions:

1. Work with the Planning and Community Development Department to review opportunities for addition-

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al protections.

Conservation Commission, Planning and Community Development Department (2023)

2. Work with the Planning and Community Development Department to effect changes to the zoning districts of the Town where it is appropriate to do so.

Conservation Commission, Planning and Community Development Department (2023)

Objective 3. Modify the Zoning By-Law to encourage the protection or creation of open space, trees and green features.

Actions:

1. Modify the Zoning ordinance to require projects over a certain size to meet specific goals using standardized tools such as the US Green Building Council's Sustainable Sites rating system.

Conservation Commission, Planning and Community Development Department (2024)

B. Green Corridors

GOAL I: PROTECT AND IMPROVE EXISTING GREEN CORRIDORS.

Objective 1. Establish a Greenways Program to identify and designate certain streets as greenways.

Actions:

1. Develop policies and procedures that will guide a Greenways Program.

Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division, Tree Planting Committee (2020)

2. Ensure information on existing green corridors is easily accessible to the public.

Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division (2021)

3. Establish protocol for including citizen activists in this process.

Conservation Commission, Citizen Activists (2022)

4. Identify and prioritize streets and roads with potential to be greenways.

Conservation Commission, Transportation Board (2021)

Objective 2. Develop a system to identify green corridors of all types based on values (wildlife, scenic, bicycle and pedestrian, connectivity, stormwater management).

Actions:

1. Establish protocols for identifying green corridors that may not follow streets.

Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division (2021)

Objective 3: Identify methods to protect and improve greenways and green corridors.

Actions:

1. Develop a working group with representatives from the Conservation Commission, the Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Engineering and Transportation Division, the Parks and Open Space Division, and members of the public to develop the standards to be used during this prioritization process.

Bicycle Advisory Committee, Engineering and Transportation Division, Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, Pedestrian Advisory Committee (2021)

2. Apply the standards to the green corridors to establish their priority levels.

Bicycle Advisory Committee, Engineering and Transportation Division, Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, Pedestrian Advisory Committee (2022)

3. Research and seek out public, private, and public-private partnership dollars and resources in a systematic, consistent manner.

Bicycle Advisory Committee, Engineering and Transportation Division, Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, Pedestrian Advisory Committee (2022)

GOAL II: IDENTIFY AND PROTECT WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.

Objective 1. Identify priority wildlife corridors using aerial photography and other tools.

Actions:

1. Work with the IT Department to identify possible wildlife corridors using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division, IT Department (2024)

Objective 2. Identify connections between priority animal habitats.

Actions:

1. Work with GIS department, Town Arborist, Park Ranger and other town officials and departments to identify animal habitat.

Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division (2025)

2. Identify links between habitat areas.

Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division (2025)

Objective 3. Identify opportunities to link protection of wildlife corridors to other open space interests and larger community planning processes.

Actions:

1. Ensure mapping and knowledge of habitat areas and linkages are discussed in broad community planning efforts.

Engineering and Transportation Division, Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, IT Department (2021)

GOAL III: DEVELOP NEW GREENWAYS AND GREEN STREETS.

Objective 1. Seek opportunities to create greenways or green streets with roadway redevelopment or improvement projects.

Actions:

1. Track street improvement and redevelopment projects through CIP, and seek to designate greenways as appropriate.

Engineering and Transportation Division (2020)

Objective 2. Include development of greenways and green streets in large scale planning processes.

Actions:

1. Ensure that greenway and green corridor designations are widely shared in the community and through Town departments.

Engineering and Transportation Division (2022)

C. Wetlands and Waterways

GOAL I: PROTECT WETLANDS, WATERWAYS AND WATER RESOURCE AREAS AS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF THE TOWN'S OPEN SPACE INVENTORY.

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Objective 1. Ensure a high level of protection for Brookline's remaining fragile wetlands.

Actions:

1. Continue efforts to certify vernal pools.
Conservation Commission (ongoing)

2. Develop educational brochures that describe wetlands, their functions and their environmental values, which will be provided to those who initiate wetlands permitting processes.
Conservation Commission (2021)

3. Increase coordination with the Building Department for the review of building permits.
Conservation Commission, Building Department (2020)

Objective 2. Improve water quality in Town surface waters, including rivers, brooks, ponds, and lagoons.

Actions:

1. Continue commitment to completion of the Muddy River Restoration Project.
Conservation Commission, Select Board (ongoing)

2. Pursue illegal connections and identify other sources of reduced water quality at Saw Mill Brook in D. Blakely Hoar Sanctuary.
Engineering and Transportation Division, Conservation Commission (2023)

3. Initiate public education regarding the impact of fertilizers, herbicides, and de-icing chemicals on surface water quality.
Conservation Commission (2020)

Objective 3. Further develop specific protocols for Conservation review of building permit applications for projects which are located within a wetland buffer zone or resource area.

Actions:

1. Work with Building Department to pilot and then implement a formal protocol.
Conservation Commission, Building Department (2020)

D. Watersheds and Infrastructure

GOAL I: PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY AND FUNCTIONS OF BROOKLINE'S WATERSHEDS, INCLUDING THE CHARLES RIVER AND THE MUDDY RIVER.

Objective 1. Continue to implement the stormwater management program.

Actions:

1. Work with the Engineering and Transportation Division to implement the Stormwater By-Law.
Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division (2020)

2. Track new MS4 Permit and ensure that Stormwater By-Law, standards and checklists are updated to comply.
Engineering and Transportation Division (ongoing)

Objective 2. Use technologies and Best Management Practices that meet new regulations and support additional community and open space goals.

Actions:

1. Continue to work with the Engineering and Transportation Division to identify opportunities for green

infrastructure and stormwater practices that support open space goals.

Parks & Open Space, Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division (2021)

2. Seek funding opportunities, including federal and state grants, to allow construction of demonstration and pilot projects.

Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division (ongoing)

Objective 3. Develop Green Street guidelines to reduce runoff and pollution from streets.

Actions:

1. Convene task force to consider stormwater funding needs and potential revenue sources, including possible stormwater fee or utility.

Conservation Commission, Water and Sewer Division, Engineering and Transportation Division (2020)

Objective 4. Identify locations for green infrastructure.

Actions:

1. Work with the Engineering and Transportation Division to develop a list of possible technologies to consider with new projects.

Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division (2022)

2. Consider reconstruction of infrastructure in high priority locations.

Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division (2025)

3. Consider requirements in stormwater permits for green streets and complete streets.

Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division (2023)

E. Habitat and Wildlife

GOAL I: PRESERVE, RESTORE AND CREATE HABITAT FOR NATIVE WILDLIFE AND PLANTS.

Objective 1. Devise policies and programs that promote and protect plant and animal biodiversity.

Actions:

1. Educate the public about plant and animal biodiversity and its value for Brookline.

Conservation Commission (2020)

2. Promote stewardship of native plants and animals.

Conservation Commission (2020)

3. Discourage and eradicate non-native invasive plant species, and encourage planting of native species on Town-owned properties.

Conservation Commission (ongoing)

4. Support educational efforts focused on non-invasive species.

Conservation Commission (2019)

Objective 2. Evaluate medium and long-term effects of climate change on habitat and biodiversity.

Actions:

1. Coordinate with climate change groups and organizations to identify impacts significant to Brookline.

Conservation Commission, Select Board's Climate Action Committee, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, Climate Action Brookline (2019)

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GOAL II: REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS.

Objective 1. Implement the municipal policy for wildlife management.

Actions:

1. Continue programs such as egg addling.
Conservation Commission (ongoing)

Objective 2. Promote best practices to reduce wildlife incursions in developed areas and neighborhoods.

Actions:

1. Develop talking points, Q and A, and other materials to post on Town website.
Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division (2020)

Objective 3. Educate the public about best practices to reduce interactions and conflicts with wildlife.

Actions:

1. At appropriate speaking engagements and outreach events, share materials and information.
Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division (2020)

F. Parks and Recreation Lands

GOAL I: MAINTAIN, REFURBISH AND EXPAND LANDS FOR PARK AND RECREATIONAL USE.

Objective 1. Ensure comprehensive planning for open space recreational use.

Actions:

1. Review the 2006 Parks, Open Space and Recreation Strategic Master Plan and ensure that ongoing activities are consistent with the recommendations of the plan.
Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Commission (2020)

Objective 2. Expand the properties available for active and passive recreational use.

Actions:

1. Identify properties with Conservation Restrictions or other mechanisms to allow public access and identify on Town website.
Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Commission (2022)
2. Add properties to Brookline's park system that specifically serve the needs of passive recreation.
Parks and Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Commission (2022)

Objective 3. Preserve and enhance protections for the Town's sanctuaries.

Actions:

1. Complete Management Plans for Town sanctuaries.
Conservation Commission (2025)
2. Ensure adequate budgets to fund maintenance and improvements in sanctuaries.
Conservation Commission (ongoing)

Objective 4. Restore and refurbish the Town's parks.

Actions:

1. Amory Tennis Courts/Parking/Boardwalk. This project includes the reconstruction of the drainage, subgrade, irrigation, and clay tennis courts and associated infrastructure at Amory Park. It also allows for improvement to drainage and reconstruction of the parking lot and entrance to the park, picnic areas and includes rehabilitation of the existing boardwalk structure and pathways at the Hall's Pond Conservation Sanctuary.

Parks and Open Space Division, \$1,700,000, CIP, FY 2025

2. Boylston Street Playground. The Boylston Street playground, basketball court, water play and athletic field are in need of full replacement/refurbishment along with associated utility upgrades. The renovation will include accessibility improvements into and through the site, fencing replacement, perimeter wall repointing, lighting to support evening use of the basketball court and social seating/gathering places to best serve community and school use.

Parks and Open Space Division, \$1,350,000, CIP, FY 2022-2023

3. Cypress Playground/Athletic Fields. This renovation will include new play equipment for 2-5 and 5-12 year-old children, repair of a perimeter retaining wall, new curbing, new water play, pathways, drainage improvements, new basketball court, updated picnic area and seating, plantings, new irrigation, athletic field light improvements/replacement an installation of a full competitive sport level synthetic turf field.

Parks and Open Space Division, \$240,000, CIP, FY 2019 (\$5,800,000 Override)

4. Harry Downes Field and Playground. Complete design work to renovate Harry Downes Field and Playground. The project involves removing the existing synthetic turf carpet and infill material, laser grinding the sub base, replacing the synthetic turf, safety pad and installing new infill. The comfort station will be fully rehabilitated to comply with ADA and provide improved storage and maintenance facilities.

Parks and Open Space Division, \$2,450,000, CIP, FY 2019

5. Fisher Hill Gatehouse Safety and Structural Improvements. The project provides for a below grade utility room, floor inserts in the open chambers to make the space safe and accessible, lighting, interior window treatment, painting and repointing.

Parks and Open Space Division, \$175,000, CIP, FY 2026+

6. Griggs Park. The pathway will be resurfaced, drainage improvements made, basketball and multi-generational/adult exercise area improved/added, lawn and plantings improved and furnishings replaced.

Parks and Open Space Division, \$1,120,000, CIP, FY 2025

7. Larz Anderson Park. This project involves the restoration in and around the lagoon area including: stabilization of the banks, dredging excessive organic material that has accumulated in the pond leading to constant algae blooms, repair to the drainage structures, safety repair/replacement of the deteriorating Tempietto, terrace, stairs and fountain, repair of the railings and bridge structures, pathway improvements, stair improvements, installation of upgraded lighting, invasive removal and new plantings.

Additionally, the Ice Rink will be repaired with new supports, headers, and piping from the compressor room to the main ice and little childrens' ice slab. Improvements to the Italianate Garden and Maintenance Yard include structural repairs to the walkways, stairs and walls, restoration of the gazebo on the east side of the garden (to match the restoration of the west side that was completed several years ago), removal of invasive vegetation and replacement with appropriate planting.

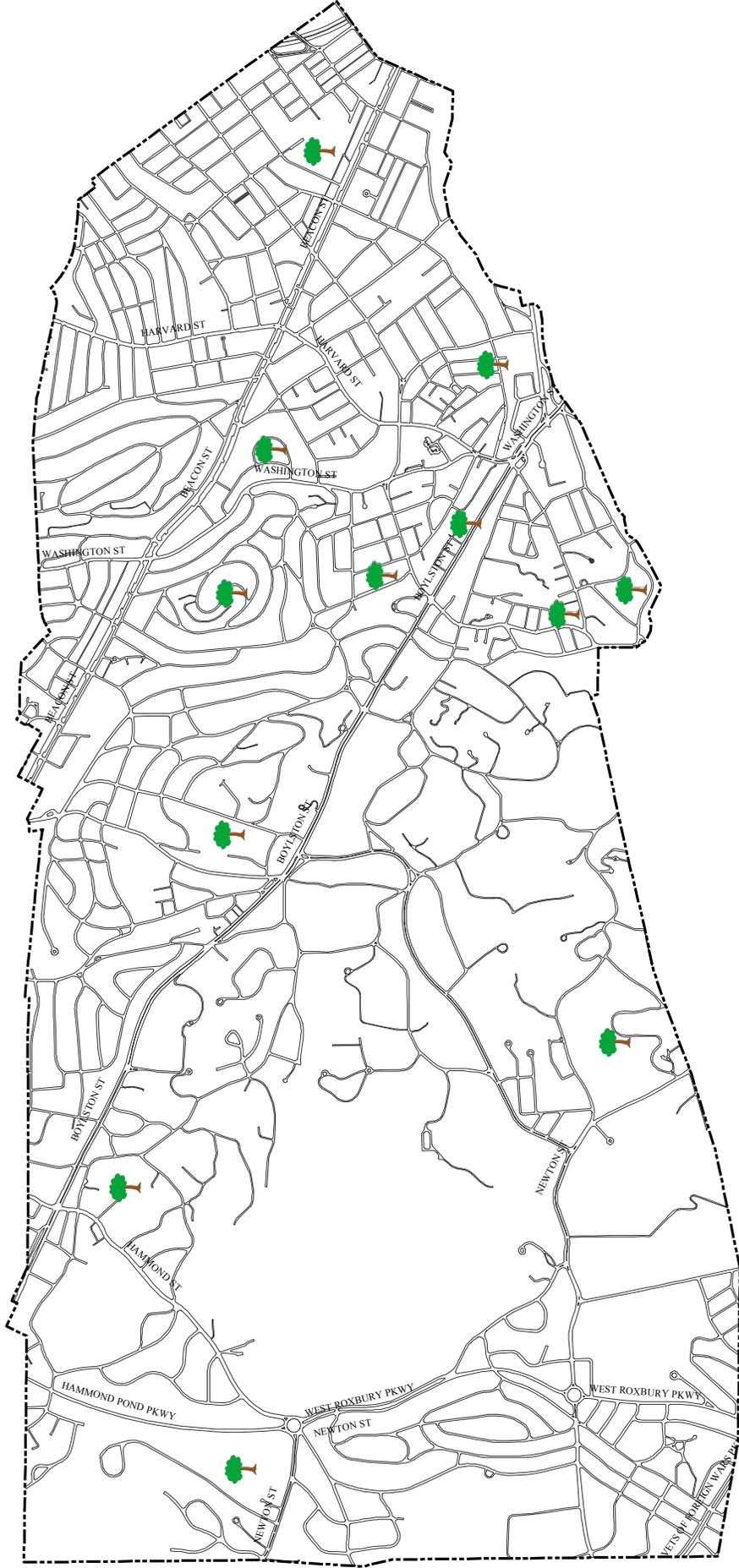
Parks and Open Space Division, \$8,425,000, CIP, FY 2019-2024

9. Murphy Playground. This renovation project will include new play equipment for tots and older children, new perimeter fencing, improved accessibility, restoration of the field, rehabilitation of pathways, new hard court/basketball area, landscape improvements, review of picnic/passive areas, and new water play/spray pool with associated utilities.

Parks and Open Space Division, \$915,000, CIP, FY 2022

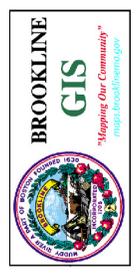
10. Robinson Playground. This project includes new playground equipment for older and younger children; water play, new irrigation and field renovation; basketball and multi-use court improvements; path-

Recommended Capital Improvement Project Locations for Parks & Open Spaces (FY 2019 - 2025)



Note:

Parks & Playgrounds includes: Amory Park, Cypress Playground, Harry Downes Field and Playground, Fisher Hill Reservoir Park, Griggs Park, Larz Anderson Park, Boylston Street Playground, Schick Park, Murphy Playground, Skyline Park, Soule Playground and Robinson Playground.



Map updated by Brookline GIS on 6/28/2019

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way and drainage improvements; and fence replacement.

Parks and Open Space Division, \$1,250,000, CIP, FY 2020-2021

11. Schick Playground. Renovations will include new play equipment for older and younger children, repointing the stone walls, repair of the wooden picnic shelter, field renovation, fencing, paving and site furniture.

Parks and Open Space Division, \$1,125,000, CIP, FY 2021-2022

12. Skyline Park (synthetic turf replacement and improvements). For this project, the existing synthetic turf carpet and infill will be removed and disposed of, the drainage layer/subbase will be laser graded, new carpet and new infill installed. This project also calls for some improvements to the site furnishings, plantings, improved connection to Lost Pond Sanctuary, renovate/construct comfort station and storage area and site amenities.

Parks and Open Space Division, \$1,980,000, CIP, FY 2025

13. Renovate Soule Playground/Athletic Fields. This project includes redesign and renovations of circulation and stormwater management, including design and construction for increased capacity, and improvements to parking areas, pathway connections, linkages to the Baldwin School, storm drainage improvements, and construction of new athletic fields.

Parks and Open Space Division, \$1,900,000, CIP, FY 2026+

Objective 5. Expand on opportunities for institutions and individuals to help care for the Town's open spaces.

Actions:

1. Formalize the ranger-led volunteer opportunities program through the Parks and Open Space Division.
Conservation Commission, Park and Recreation Commission (ongoing)

G. Urban Forest

GOAL I: MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE STANDARDS OF CARE FOR THE PUBLIC URBAN FOREST.

Objective 1. Maintain staff to work with the Town Arborist to uphold the urban forest.

Actions:

1. Work with relevant Town bodies to focus on budget needs and planning.
Select Board, Parks and Open Space Division, Advisory Committee (ongoing)

Objective 2. Ensure that Capital Improvements Program (CIP) funding remains at an adequate level to protect the urban forest.

Actions:

1. Work with relevant Town bodies on CIP.
Select Board, Parks and Open Space Division, Advisory Committee (ongoing)

Objective 3. Consider other methods to ensure or increase funding for street tree care, including earmarking insurance reimbursements for damaged street trees to be used for care of street trees.

Actions:

1. Establish a working group with Deputy Town administrator, etc. to investigate appropriate needs and methods to ensure reimbursements for trees.
Tree Planting Committee, Deputy Town Administrator (2024)

Objective 4. Promote contributions to the Special Tree Planting Fund for purchase, planting, and/

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or ongoing maintenance of significant public trees.

Actions:

1. Engage with community environmental groups and other interested parties to ask for their assistance in publicizing this fund.

Tree Planting Committee (2020)

2. Engage with the general public to educate them about this fund.

Tree Planting Committee (2021)

Objective 5: Evaluate medium and long-term effects of climate change on the urban forest, and identify synergies in planning for climate change and protection of the urban forest.

Actions:

1. Coordinate with Town departments and other organizations to identify opportunities to collect data and track information.

Parks and Open Space Division, Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission, Tree Planting Committee, Select Board's Climate Action Committee (2024)

2. Ensure that climate impacts, especially on open space interests, are considered during large scale planning processes.

Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission, Select Board's Climate Action Committee (2024)

II. COMMUNITY GOALS

A. Recreation

GOAL I: RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN SPACE AREAS WILL BE SUPPORTED AND EXPANDED.

Objective 1. Use creative means to acquire, share, repurpose or access additional facilities and public spaces.

Actions:

1. Locate and build new multi-purpose fields and ball fields.

Park and Recreation Commission (2025)

2. Establish formal partnerships with Brookline Schools, both private and public.

Park and Recreation Commission, School Committee (2020)

3. Establish formal partnerships with local institutions and organizations.

Park and Recreation Commission (2021)

4. Look at additional and alternative funding mechanisms.

Park and Recreation Commission (2022)

Objective 2. Enhance cost recovery and business planning.

Actions:

1. Create and implement a clear Pricing and Cost Recovery Policy.

Park and Recreation Commission (2019)

2. Create and adopt a Strategic Business Plan.

Park and Recreation Commission (2020)

3. Conduct scheduled analysis of user fees and ensure fees are appropriate with level of service provided.

Park and Recreation Commission (2021)

B. Education, Outreach and Advocacy

GOAL I: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN.

Objective 1. Create active collaboration among groups providing environmental education and programming for children, families, and adults, in order to reach more residents and present more consistent perspectives on stewardship and conservation.

Actions:

1. Gather representatives from all environmental education and outreach organizations to synthesize and coordinate activities.

Park and Recreation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, School Committee, Conservation Commission, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, Friends of Fairsted (2023)

2. Develop strategies to fill in any gaps.

Park and Recreation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, School Committee, Conservation Commission (2022)

Objective 2. Increase public awareness of open space and related environmental issues through outlets such as print and on-line media, targeted events and programs, annual presentation of Brookline's achievements to date, and other public awareness activities.

Actions:

1. Work with Town staff and friends groups to promote activities and opportunities through social media and newsletters.

Parks and Open Space Division, Local Friends Groups (ongoing)

Objective 3. Educate the public about the links between open space, infrastructure, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Actions:

1. Work with the Select Board's Climate Action Committee and Climate Action Brookline to ensure appropriate information is disseminated to the public at large.

Select Board's Climate Action Committee, Climate Action Brookline, Select Board (2020)

Objective 4. Advocate for improved access to open spaces by people with disabilities.

Actions:

1. Work with ADA Coordinator and Commission For The Disabled to improve and maintain features which improve access to open spaces.

Conservation Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Commission on Disabilities (2021)

2. Publicize the open spaces that are accessible to people with disabilities.

Conservation Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Commission on Disabilities, Brookline Public Library, Brookline Interactive Group, Council on Aging (2020)

GOAL II: ENHANCE BROAD UNDERSTANDING OF GREEN CORRIDORS/OPEN SPACE FUNCTIONS AND VALUES, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO STORMWATER, GROUNDWATER, CLIMATE, AND WILDLIFE.

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Objective 1. Actively engage with other community groups to identify shared goals and objectives.

Actions:

1. Establish a working group with representatives interested in stormwater, groundwater, climate, and wildlife to identify goals and objectives.

Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division, Select Board's Climate Action Committee, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, Climate Action Brookline (2022)

Objective 2. Consider opportunities for workshops and/or seminars to educate public.

Actions:

1. Identify appropriate topics, speakers, settings, and times, and coordinate workshops and/or seminars.

Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, Climate Action Brookline (2023)

Objective 3. Engage the school community regarding water-related issues through appropriate areas of curriculum.

Actions:

1. Engage with curriculum coordinators for the School Department to determine appropriate placement within the curriculum.

Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division, School Committee (2023)

Objective 4. Encourage use of open space and greenways for walking and biking to reduce carbon emissions.

Actions:

1. Assess open spaces and greenways to determine which areas are appropriate for walking and biking.

Transportation Board, Conservation Commission, Bicycle Advisory Committee, Pedestrian Advisory Committee (2022)

2. Disseminate findings of study to the public at large.

Transportation Board, Conservation Commission, Bicycle Advisory Committee, Brookline Public Library, Brookline Interactive Group, Council on Aging (2024)

GOAL III: TIE INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES INTO COMMUNITY INTERESTS AND AWARENESS-BUILDING ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP.

Objective 1. Increase public understanding of linkages between infrastructure and resource management, including climate change, watershed management, pollution, health, and well-being.

Actions:

1. Develop educational materials about infrastructure and its impact on resources.

Engineering and Transportation Division, Conservation Commission (2022)

2. Utilize pilot projects to increase public awareness.

Engineering and Transportation Division, Conservation Commission (2023)

C. Financing Open Space Initiatives

GOAL I: INCREASE FINANCING OF THE LAND ACQUISITION FUND.

Objective 1. Study the feasibility of designating a percentage of Town revenue specifically for the existing Land Acquisition Fund.

Actions:

1. Consider using a funding mechanism which would consistently designate a portion of the Town revenue for the existing Land Acquisition Fund.

Deputy Town Administrator, Conservation Commission, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance (2025)

2. Continue discussions with the Town's management team on creative approaches to enhance the level of funds coming into the Land Acquisition Fund.

Deputy Town Administrator, Conservation Commission, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance (2021)

Objective 2. Find opportunities to designate funds for the Land Acquisition Fund in the context of development or other relevant revenue streams.

Actions:

1. Study the feasibility of impact fees or other mechanisms to designate funds.

Deputy Town Administrator, Conservation Commission, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance (2020)

GOAL II: IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO FUND PROTECTION OF SIGNIFICANT OPEN SPACE WHEN AT IMMINENT RISK OF LOSS.

Objective 1. Develop municipal funding mechanisms and procedures for protecting at-risk land and environmental features.

Actions:

1. Establish a standing committee of appropriate municipal officials and representatives from the community to be available to address any issues and opportunities that arise in a timely fashion when needed.

Select Board, Conservation Commission (2021)

Objective 2. Research outside funding sources, such as individual gifts, challenge grants and ongoing foundation grants.

Actions:

1. The committee set forth in Goal III, Objective 2, Action 1 should research funding sources.

Select Board, Conservation Commission (2023)

Objective 3. Encourage public-private partnerships.

Actions:

1. Work with local groups such as the GreenSpace Alliance and other regional and national entities to develop partnerships.

Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division (2020)

Objective 4. Utilize outside third parties, such as land trusts and non-profits, to ensure a non-governmental system of protecting or acquiring land when municipal funding is not possible.

Actions:

1. Committee set forth in Goal III, Objective 2, Action 1 should identify outside third parties.

Select Board, Conservation Commission (2024)

2. Committee set forth in Goal III, Objective 2, Action 1 should establish relationships with outside parties to discuss proactively land protection options.

Select Board, Conservation Commission (2024)

GOAL III: MAINTAIN OR INCREASE FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR THE ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF OPEN SPACES.

SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

Objective 1. Develop funding sources to uphold the level of maintenance and staff dedicated for parks and open spaces.

Actions:

1. Work with the Parks and Open Space Division and advocacy groups to advocate for appropriate levels of funding.

Conservation Commission, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance (2019)

2. Strengthen ties to public health community in support of funding.

Conservation Commission, Health Department, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance (2020)

Objective 2. Implement funding strategies to maintain appropriate personnel and add new staff if feasible to ensure that significant capital investments in open space during the last decade are sustained.

Actions:

1. Work with advocates from climate change, public health, open space and appropriate Town staff to identify shared long-term priorities and goals.

Conservation Commission, Select Board's Climate Action Committee, Climate Action Brookline (2021)

2. Ensure that the CIP and operations budgets are well coordinated so significant capital investments are not undermined.

Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance (2020)

III. MANAGEMENT GOALS

A. Better Municipal Coordination

GOAL I: IMPROVE GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION TO PROTECT OPEN SPACE.

Objective 1. Institutionalize interdepartmental coordination to improve protection and use resources most effectively.

Actions:

1. Improve coordination of permit review for wetlands, stormwater, open space and tree protection issues, with Zoning, Building, Engineering and Planning permits and departments.

Conservation Commission, Building Department, Information Technology Department, Engineering and Transportation Division (2022)

Objective 2. Various Town departments should communicate regularly on issues related to climate change, develop synergies to mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its effects.

Actions:

1. Establish a working group to meet quarterly.

Health Department, Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission, Engineering and Transportation Division, Park and Recreation Commission (2023)

Objective 3. Work with adjacent municipalities or other governmental agencies to identify ways in which joint action could benefit shared open space properties.

Actions:

1. Continue to strengthen partnerships in managing nature sanctuaries and tree canopies.

Conservation Commission (ongoing)

Objective 4. Support and strengthen links between open space goals and other environmental

goals, including climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.

Actions:

1. Continue to coordinate efforts with parks, schools, climate change, health, and open space advocates. *Conservation Commission, Health Department, Parks and Open Space Division, School Department, School Committee, Select Board's Climate Action Committee, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, Climate Action Brookline (2020)*

B. Complying with Stormwater Regulations

GOAL I: MANAGE TOWN PROJECTS TO ALLOW IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING GREENWAYS WHEN POSSIBLE AND SEEK OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW GREENWAYS.

Objective 1. Ensure that all Town projects consider opportunities for adding vegetation, enhancing greenways, and improving open space.

Actions:

1. Establish protocols with appropriate Town departments to ensure all available opportunities for enhancing greenways are examined as part of a design review or RFP (Request for Proposals) process. *Conservation Commission, Building Department, Engineering and Transportation Division, Planning and Community Development Department, Select Board's Climate Action Committee (2021)*

Objective 2. Develop metrics to quantify pros and cons of green infrastructure actions including cost benefits.

Actions:

1. Work with CRWA to access the most current data on relevant projects with similar parameters. *Engineering and Transportation Division, Conservation Commission, Building Department (2020)*

GOAL II: USE NEW DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TO REDUCE IMPACTS TO RESOURCES.

Objective 1. Reduce impervious cover over time.

Actions:

1. Make alternative technologies to conventional impervious surfaces available to landowners, contractors and other relevant people. *Conservation Commission, Building Department, Engineering and Transportation Division (2020)*

Objective 2. Consider potential alternatives to conventional infrastructure during Capital Improvements Program (CIP) planning process.

Actions:

1. Establish protocols with appropriate Town bodies to ensure that green infrastructure is considered during Capital Improvements Program planning process. *Conservation Commission, Building Department, Engineering and Transportation Division (2021)*

Objective 3. All future municipal projects should consider green infrastructure alternatives, including projects that are not part of the Capital Improvements Program.

Actions:

1. Work with appropriate Town bodies to ensure that green infrastructure is considered during planning processes for construction projects. *Conservation Commission, Building Department, Engineering and Transportation Division (2020)*

C. Regional Planning

GOAL I: DEVISE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES THAT ADDRESS CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES.

Objective 1. Consider potential impacts of climate change in management decisions, including decisions regarding vegetation for reduction of urban heat-islands and/or stormwater management, and habitat buffers to counter stresses and enable wildlife migration.

Actions:

1. Participate in regional efforts to address climate change in the context of open space.

Conservation Commission, Health Department, Parks and Open Space Division, Select Board's Climate Action Committee, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, Climate Action Brookline (2022)

Objective 2. Devise management strategies to address non-native invasive species.

Actions:

1. Monitor parks and open spaces for the presence of non-native invasive species.

Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division (2020)

2. Collaborate with regional and government agencies that already have procedures in place for addressing non-native invasive species.

Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division Park Rangers, IPANE (2021)

3. Implement strategies to remove non-native invasive species, and appropriately restore affected areas.

Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division (2022)

GOAL II: STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS TO GREEN SPACES IN NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES.

Objective 1. Communicate with staff and/or environmental advocates in neighboring communities to enable formation of strategies to strengthen connections between green spaces.

Actions:

1. Consider strategies for strengthening the connections between D. Blakely Hoar Sanctuary, and Leatherbee Woods and Hancock Woods.

Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division (2023)

2. Consider strategies for strengthening the connections between Lost Pond Sanctuary, and Kennard Conservation Area and the Hammond Pond Parkway Reservation.

Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division (2024)

3. Consider strategies for strengthening the connections between Riverway and Olmsted Parks, and the rest of the Emerald Necklace parks and open spaces.

Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division (2022)

4. Continue to work with municipal and state entities to ensure proper stewardship and management of the Chestnut Hill Reservoir.

Conservation Commission, Parks and Open Space Division, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (2025)